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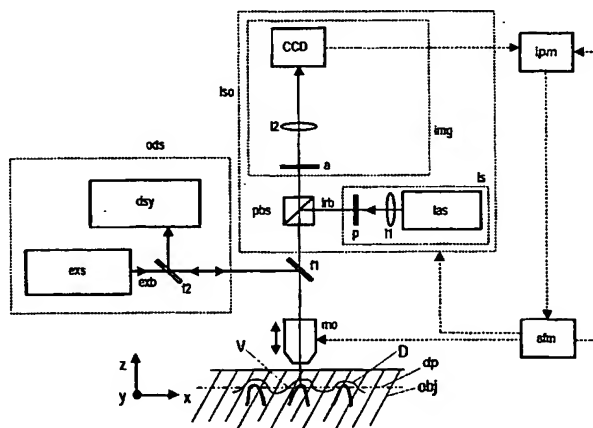
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(54) Title: ANALYSIS APPARATUS AND METHOD COMPRISING AUTO-FOCUSING MEANS



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to an analysis apparatus, in particular a spectroscopic analysis apparatus, for analyzing an object, such as blood of a patient, and a corresponding analysis method. To aim the confocal detection volume inside a blood vessel orthogonal polarized spectral imaging (OPS imaging) is used to locate blood capillaries in the skin. Image processing means (ipm) determining image characteristics, which indicate if an imaging system (img) for imaging the object is focused on the object (obj) to be analyzed, from a detected image. Said image processing means (ipm) are preferably adapted for determining the amplitudes of spatial frequencies corresponding to typical characteristics of the object (obj) from a detected image, or for determining the maximum contrast present in a detected image. Based on the determined image characteristics, auto-focusing means (afm) control the focusing means (mo) to change the focusing accordingly, whereafter the object is imaged and the same image characteristics are determined again from a the new image. This is preferably repeatedly done until the object (obj) substantially lies in a detection plane (dp) onto which the focusing means (mo) are focused. Thus, continuous autofocusing with high accuracy can be achieved.

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